

Testimony of Theresa Velendzas Before the Connecticut  
General Assembly of Public Health Committee  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting SB 126 and Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals.

I am a mother of two young children. Before becoming a parent I was quite oblivious to the volume of toxins everywhere, air, water, from food, the environment, consumer products, and even parks and schools. As many experts will testify before you, there is a sharp rise in childhood and adult cancers, behavioral disorders, and respiratory illness and these exposures to toxins are beginning very early as umbilical cord analyses show.

Trying to be careful about exposure to toxins has been a sustained challenge where I feel consumers have the disadvantage. Perhaps at some time some of these now known toxins were considered safe. However we cannot ignore the data demonstrating the opposite. It is our responsibility to re evaluate substances and take action to restrict exposure to the public. SB 126 provides a good starting point for CT to take action against this public health threat that our very own Department of Public Health considers a priority for action. This Bill would not require additional resources and could also help to protect public health merely through information and limiting exposure.

As a parent navigating what can be likened to a minefield of toxic exposures on a daily basis, it is my right to have access to information so that I may better protect my family and community's interests. As an advocate for health and the environment it is my obligation to support this proposal brought before you, and I would like to commend and thank all the cosponsors for this bill. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all of you for taking the time to review this very important issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Respectfully,

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